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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in 9, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 12, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:

a carrier, and

a detection element having opposite first and second ends, the first end being positioned adjacent to the carrier, and

a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier and the detection element to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening defined by at least one edge, the channel extending at least from the opening to the second end of the detection element, and

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wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove and having a width less than that of the channel extends into is positioned at the at least one edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface facing the channel opposite to the at least one notch is exposed.

Claim 10 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a second cover and an intermediate layer positioned between the second cover and the carrier.

Claim 11 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

Claim 12 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 13 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

Claim 14 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 15 (Previously added): Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for withdrawing a liquid sample into an analytical element, the method comprising the steps of providing a device that comprises a carrier, a detection element having opposite first and second ends, the first end being positioned adjacent to the carrier, and a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier and the detection element to form a capillary-active channel having a sample application opening defined by at least one edge, the channel extending at least from the opening to the second end of the detection element, and wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove ~~extends into~~ and having a width less than that of the channel is positioned at the at least one edge

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of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface opposite to the at least one notch facing the channel is exposed and contacting the edge of the sample application opening adjacent to the notch with the liquid sample so that the liquid sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel.

Claim 17 (Currently added): A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:

a carrier,

a detection element having opposite first and second ends, the first end being positioned adjacent to the carrier, and

a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier and the detection element to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening defined by at least one edge and extending at least from the opening to the second end of the detection element, and

wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove is positioned at the at least one edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface facing the channel opposite to the at least one notch is exposed.

Claim 18 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a second cover and an intermediate layer positioned between the second cover and the carrier.

Claim 19 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 17 wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.

Claim 20 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 17 wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.

Claim 21 (Currently added): as claimed in 17 wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.

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Claim 22 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 21 wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 23 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 21 wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 24 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 21 wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 25 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 21 wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

Claim 26 (Currently added): A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:

a carrier, and

a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening defined by at least one edge and wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove and having a width less than the channel's width is positioned at the at least one edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface facing the channel opposite to the at least one notch is exposed.

Claim 27 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a second cover and an intermediate layer positioned between the second cover and the carrier.

Claim 28 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 26 wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.

Claim 29 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 26 wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.

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Claim 30 (Currently added): as claimed in 26 wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.

Claim 31 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 32 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 30 wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 33 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 34 (Currently added): Device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

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